

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. A complete listing of the claims proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the computer-aided monitoring of process parameters of a manufacturing process of a physical object, ~~object data which identify the physical object being assigned to various hierarchical levels, object data of various hierarchical levels being grouped to form hierarchical object data records, limit values for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record, process data of the at least one process parameter, measured during the manufacture of physical objects, being stored and the hierarchical object data records corresponding to the object data being determined for physical objects manufactured;~~

~~in which method an unspecific value is stored~~ storing an unspecific value for the hierarchical level if no specific value is stored in the object data record for the hierarchical level;

~~in which method the process data stored~~ storing process data for the corresponding object data records;

~~are compared~~ comparing the stored process data with the stored limit values for the corresponding object data records; and

~~in the comparison, iteratively processing~~ the hierarchical levels of the object data record of the stored process data being iteratively processed according to a predetermined hierarchy in such a way that, starting from a highest hierarchical level, the next-lower hierarchical level is processed, and this is repeated until the processing has reached the lowest hierarchical level; and — the unspecific value of a hierarchical level of the object data record being used if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the physical object is a wafer.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the hierarchical levels correspond to logistical levels of the manufacturing process.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, in which unspecific limit values are stored for process parameters by using unspecific object data.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, in which the values of the at least one process parameter are measured.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, in which the hierarchical levels are sorted according to a predeterminable sorting criterion.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for the computer-aided monitoring of process parameters of a manufacturing process of a physical object, said device comprising: object data which identify the physical object being assigned to various hierarchical levels, object data of various hierarchical levels being grouped to form hierarchical object data records, limit values for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record, process data of the at least one process parameter, measured during the manufacture of physical objects, being stored and the hierarchical object data records corresponding to the object data being determined for physical objects manufactured;

with a processor, which is set up in such a way that the following method steps can be carried out:

storing an unspecific value for the hierarchical level if no specific value is stored in the object data record for the hierarchical level;

comparing process data stored for the corresponding object data records with the stored limit values for the corresponding object data records;

iteratively processing the hierarchical levels of the object data record of the stored process data according to a predeterminable hierarchy in the comparison in such a way that, starting from a highest hierarchical level, the next-lower hierarchical level is processed, and this is repeated repeating the steps of comparing and iteratively processing until the processing has reached the lowest hierarchical level and the unspecific value of a hierarchical level of the object data record being used in the processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, in which a program for the monitoring of a manufacturing process of a physical object is stored, ~~the computer-readable storage medium object data which identify the physical object being assigned to various hierarchical levels, object data of various hierarchical levels being grouped to form hierarchical object data records, limit values for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record, process data of the at least one process parameter, measured during the manufacture of physical objects, being stored and the hierarchical object data records corresponding to the object data being determined for physical objects manufactured,~~ which program has the following method steps when it is run by a processor:

storing an unspecific value for the hierarchical level if no specific value is stored in the object data record for the hierarchical level;

comparing process data stored for the corresponding object data records with the stored limit values for the corresponding object data records;

iteratively processing the hierarchical levels of the object data record of the stored process data according to a predetermined hierarchy in the comparison in such a way that, starting from a highest hierarchical level, the next-lower hierarchical level is processed, and ~~this is repeated~~ repeating until the processing has reached the lowest hierarchical level, and the unspecific value of a hierarchical level of the object data record being used in the processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.

9. (Original) A computer program element for the monitoring of a manufacturing process of a physical object, object data which identify the physical object being assigned to various hierarchical levels, object data of various hierarchical levels being grouped to form hierarchical object data records, limit values for at least one process parameter being stored and respectively assigned to a hierarchical object data record, process data of the at least one process parameter, measured during the manufacture of physical objects, being stored and the hierarchical object data records corresponding to the object data being determined for physical objects manufactured,

which element has the following method steps when it is run by a processor:

- storing an unspecific value for the hierarchical level if no specific value is stored in the object data record for the hierarchical level;
- comparing process data stored for the corresponding object data records with the stored limit values for the corresponding object data records;
- iteratively processing the hierarchical levels of the object data record of the stored process data according to a predetermined hierarchy in the comparison in such a way that, starting from a highest hierarchical level, the next-lower hierarchical level is processed, and this is repeated until the processing has reached the lowest hierarchical level, and the unspecific value of a hierarchical level of the object data record being used in the processing if the value of the hierarchical level is not stored as a specific value.